

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Minutes
Special Board Meeting
February 20, 2011

President	James Trent	LTPH Reps.	Jen Voge Paula Walker
President Elect	Jeff Thornton	DC Diamonds Rep.	Absent (Chris Herwig)
Past President	Tony Rehm	Mite Rep.	Mike Weber
Secretary	Betsy McCrary	Squirt Rep.	Absent (Dave Batterman)
Treasurer	Tim Butcher	PeeWee Rep.	Jen Kurtz
		Bantam Rep.	Gary Pfann
		High School 2 Rep.	Chris Gehrman
		Coaches Rep.	Absent (Rob Wisniewski)

Audience: Steve Traut and Chad Schneider

President James Trent called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

1. Public comments
None

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Secretary – Minutes from the January meeting were approved by the Board and have been posted on the website. The recent Executive Committee minutes have also been distributed and posted.
- b. Treasurer – Tim will send a draft copy of the audit results letter later this evening. Tim reviewed highlights for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, based on the audited books. Total assets came to approximately \$751k. Revenue was about \$515k, expenses \$463k, changes \$52, and unrestricted items \$413k, for a total of about \$102k in income for the year. Jeff asked about the expense ratio. Mike had done a projection of between 70 and 80%. Gary commented that a 90% expense ratio is pretty good. Tim explained that the cash flow is indicative of the ability to service debt. Last year utility expenses were about \$61k (\$5k/amount), along with nearly \$61k equipment and maintenance.

As far as the audit, they were pleased to see a second person involved in review of the books. They suggested some additional oversight for the concession stand, as there is lots of in/out with cash and inventory. The auditor from Wipfli is willing to present information to the Board. So far the audit has cost about \$4k. The audit (vs. review) is a movement toward transparency and knowledge of our bookkeeping practices.

James commented that collection of second half dues is underway. There are multiple families that still owe dues, and quite a few families that owe \$200 (for fundraising). Only one family has had an issue and protested the fundraising as something they didn't know about, although they checked the agreement boxes at registration. People who haven't picked up cards have had lots of opportunities. James will continue to work with Paula and Tim to drive collections. Approximately ten families have requested payment plans. We've been trying to work with families to keep kids skating. He feels we need to revisit the payment/invoice situation. Tony believes we have more recourse for collections in the off-season. No matter how much we try, we lose if we pull a kid. Mike asked if we're in favor of a payment plan, and he also asked about scholarship funds. Betsy explained that we applied for two Region 4 scholarships. The association must match the amount requested, so we requested one scholarship that was equivalent to ½ season dues and another that was ¼ season dues. Due to high number of requests, Region 4 funded requests at about 48% of the amount requested. The remaining money had to come from our own scholarship funds (so SPYHA covered 75% of the request, Region 4 25%). We also applied for a 25% dues scholarship from the Jingles O'Brien Scholarship fund on behalf of another player, and received that. SPYHA matched with a 25% dues contribution, and the family covered the remaining 50% dues. All scholarship recipients were still responsible for volunteer hours and mandatory fundraising.

Jeff said we have too much to do to spend the amount of time we do chasing down payments. Tim said 90% of the members don't have issues. We did save about 3% per kid by not invoicing through Puck. Tim thanked Paula for helping out with the audit.

One more audit request was for a copy of the IRS Determination Letter. Betsy will look through the things she has to see if it is there. Otherwise, we can request another one.

- c. President Elect – Jeff Thornton
Jeff will cover new building later in the agenda.
- d. Past President – Tony Rehm
Tony is working with Patsy Zielsdorf on patches. SPYHA submits one list based on information on the scoresheets from the team reps. Looking into the jerseys should be covered under new business.
- e. President
James has nothing individual to report.

3. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. LTPH – Paula noted that LTPH has about another month. Betsy mentioned that she has been asked how equipment hand-in would be handled. Paula will follow up with Jason. Tony added that he would follow up as well. Garbage bags have worked well in the past. Betsy pointed out that some players would be playing summer hockey and turning everything back in and then redistributing it from scratch might be inconvenient, so maybe there could be a sizing check or a way to check the same equipment out again..
- b. DC Diamonds – Chris Herwig was absent. Jeff said U10, U12, and U14 all are going to state, for the first time in program history.
- c. Mite – Mike Weber reported that the Mite A team is 11-19-4 and they won two games this weekend, taking fifth place at the tournament. They have gotten better. They are a young team. Mite A are going to state. Mike didn't have information on Mite B.
- d. Squirt - Dave Batterman was absent. James said all three squirt teams are going to state, and Squirt C won Region 4.
- e. PeeWee – Jen Kurtz reported that the A team is 15-12-0 and is not going to state, B is 21-10-1 and is going to state, and C is 9-19-1. For the C team only one team from Region 4 could go to state, so that was very difficult and our C team didn't make it. Jen has received some feedback from parents on the PeeWee C team about the goalie situation, as the player who had been playing in goal quite a bit quit playing goal and decided to play out. Tony indicated that they had been flip-flopping in goal. The team has had a hard time. Jen explained that she was asked to voice concern, but no one was willing to come to the meeting. Jeff mentioned that we do not have a policy on goal tending. Gary has started a list of things that have been mentioned to be addressed.
- f. Bantam – Gary Pfann reported that the Bantam B is going to state. Bantam A won their last tournament in a shootout, which was a positive way to end the season. They've had a tough season. Jeff thought the bantam tryout policy should go back on the table. Chris Gehrmann thought maybe it should be looked at year-to-year. Jen asked if we can discuss tryouts, scheduling, and other sports. It is difficult to do without a coaches rep present. James will talk to Rob, as this is the fourth meeting in a row Rob has missed. Jeff would like to take a list of things to talk about and split it out so we have a topic at each meeting. James mentioned that volunteering should be talked about – the new commitment starts April 1st – along with the mandatory fundraiser.
- g. High School - Chris Gehrmann said HS2 is hosting the state tournament. Some parents have indicated they want volunteer credits for work involved with the tournament; however that is not part of the policy. SPYHA has received a written complaint about a player's actions during a game. SHAW calls their teams varsity and JV, but they are not WIAA teams. Chris wasn't at the game, so she only knows the paper received a game misconduct and sat out yesterday. There is no referee report (none is required for a game misconduct) to review. Chris is working to find a date that will work for coaches and player/parent to meet with the available Executive Committee members.
- h. Rob Wisniewski was absent.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Rink / Building Committee
The letter from James has gone out to the association. James has received one positive, very excited response and one additional response that will be discussed later. The architect is working on two-week plans/renderings. Jeff had one change – the addition of about 500 seats to the second rink - that added \$150k to the cost. The current Stevens estimate is \$7.17 million. There is a meeting with the metal building company this week. The city has seen the renderings and is pleased. Jen asked and Jeff confirmed, that the building is highly handicapped accessible, with zero threshold doors and a ramp to the ice. James, Jeff, and Chuck have met with several user groups, and three of four groups are very interested in additional ice time.

b. Capital Fundraising

Mike reported that the committee meetings weekly and expects developments in the next 30 days. The advertising brochures are going to the printer, and there will be an ad in The Star. We're hoping for membership meetings and have a chamber mixer coming up. All of the materials are pretty much in place. Mike will print out everything.

c. Chamber Mixer

The Chamber Mixer is Monday night from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Jen will be there right before 3 pm. Mike will bring an easel and be there around 3 as well. We have a veggie tray and a tray with cheese and sausage. We also need to replace the rendering on the thermos.

d. Region 4 Report

Jen reported that March 9th the patch information is due. Elections are in March for all roles, including ALDs and vice president. Trophies for winning leagues will be available at the March meeting. Jerry Kennedy gave a huge talk on ADM. He was thrilled at the turnout for the ADM presentation in Waunakee. They'll try to have another one. ADM is for all levels. They're voting in June in Colorado about no pee-wee checking. Jerry Kennedy specifically called out that the ADM cross-ice program was non-traveling for mite, instead it should be within the association as an in-house program. Discussion on game cancellations, girls league, etc., were tabled for a future meeting. There is still discussion about out-of-state leagues: it is likely that Rockford would drop out, but Dubuque really wants to stay. The girls may need to pick one league. Jen also mentioned that Jeff Sauer works to bring a disabled hockey event in 2013 to the Madison area. They would need two rinks. There is sled hockey and a program for the mentally challenged. It is held in late March, and has nation-wide exposure. Jen will send a message expressing interest in hosting this type of event in our new facility. The next meeting is March 16, with Dave Batterman scheduled to attend and Tony Rehm as the alternate. While Jen was at the February meeting, the assigned SPYHA representative did not attend, so it's important to have someone at the next meeting.

e. ADM

The ADM discussion group met twice. It included James Trent, Jeff Thornton, Paula Walker, Jen Voge, Chad Schneider, Bob Houle, Suzanne Doody, Jerry O'Gara, Danny Rauls, and Chuck Wilson. The group recommends going forward, but should meet again to discuss further details. Chuck had provided some estimates of age groupings, and we could have enough kids to do red, white and blue in-house levels plus a Learn to Skate/Learn to Play program. The group recommends that SPYHA opt out of the Region 4 area cross-ice league at this time. This program has the potential of bringing more kids into skating because it's less travel, cost, and time. Participation in or hosting of one or two "jamborees" would bring exposure to other cross-ice teams without the time/expense of regular travel. Jeff likes the potential to decrease cost. In addition, the group recommends that the Learn to Play/Learn to Skate programs be 8 week sessions. Skaters would not be starting mid-session; they would have to wait for the next session. This would make things easier from an informational and invoicing perspective. The Learn to Skate and Learn to Play 1 sessions would probably be ½ hour, with the Learn to Play 2/3 increasing to 50 to 60 minutes. Essentially, SPHL would comprise the red, white and blue teams. One possibility in the future would be to partner with a figure skating instructor to help teach basic skating. All kids under U8 are recommended to have one off ice session or activity per week. This isn't something the association would need to do – it could be soccer or other conditioning activities. This is a recommendation from the ADM program to keep kids from getting burned out on hockey.

One item for further discussion is what to do with 2011-2012 mite-eligible players who have played on mite travel teams this year. Six are not age-eligible for squirts next year. Paula Walker feels that based on skating ability they should be able to try out for squirts. Jen Kurtz mentioned that Region 4 is strongly encouraging players to try the cross-ice program and not move up. James does not want to spend the whole year talking about two or three kids.

Numbers will play a part in the decision. While some might view cross-ice as a U10 activity, we would be playing ourselves, so older kids who might be starting hockey would have a place to learn the game, as the red, white, and blue groups have flexibility to move as players develop.

There was lots of additional discussion on this topic.

Paula made a motion that SPYHA eliminate mite travel beginning with the 2011-2012 travel hockey season. Jen Kurtz seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and all approved.

Betsy made a motion that SPYHA decline the invitation to join a Dane County league for cross-ice play. SPYHA will develop an in-house cross-ice program. Paula seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and all approved.

There was some additional discussion about the ADM committee preparing an informational letter to the membership. Mite-age players trying out for squirts will be discussed at a later meeting, when tryout policies are determined. The ACE director was not present to lead further discussion at this meeting.

5. New Business

a. Jerseys

Tony suggested that SPYHA reconsider the current jersey program, where SPYHA sells home jerseys. He explained it is challenging number-wise and is painful for volunteers. Tony made a motion that SPYHA stops selling home jerseys, and the association owns both home and away jerseys again. Gary seconded the motion.

In further discussion, it was confirmed that new socks would still be purchased every year. It is believed that returning to the previous state would save money, and at the end of their projected life, it would be a novelty to purchase the old jerseys. We would start alternating years for jersey purchases.

There was no further discussion beyond this and all approved. The motion passed.

It was mentioned that the Board should set policy that at home games teams wear their home jerseys and at away games they wear away jerseys.

b. Air Quality

The Today Show featured a follow up program on arena air quality that has netted some discussion/concern. Zamboni drivers open exhaust vents in the rink when the zamboni is on the ice. When the gas-powered edger is in operation, the zamboni door is opened to the outside. We have installed a CO meter next to the zamboni door. There are no concerns in the current building. Gary looked into monitoring last year, but didn't have success. We could check with We Energies for suggestions. We will also take measures regarding air quality for the new rink.

c. Parent/Kid Games

James reminded the board that the association takes care of one hour of ice for each team wishing to have a parent-kid game. If equipment is needed, team reps need to make arrangements with the equipment managers, but there is very little adult-sized equipment. No one can be on the ice without a helmet.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn to closed session. Jen Kurtz seconded the motion, and all approved. The closed session began at 8:05 pm

Closed session discussion regarding a concern expressed by a previous SPYHA Board member regarding SPYHA's relationship with a former employee. No action was taken by the Board as a result of this discussion. The Executive Committee will review information that may be available and report back to the Board.

Gary made a motion to adjourn the closed session and the meeting. Tony seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Next meeting: Sunday, Mar. 20th, at 6 pm.